Promotion of Inter-Regional Trade

†1653. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to grant more relaxations to promote inter-regional trade;

(b) if so, the comprehensive details thereof, and by when it is likely to be implemented; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Exports from NER

1654. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of items exported from NER during the Ninth Five Year Plan alongwith the amount of foreign exchange earned through export of those items; and

(b) what steps are being taken by Government to increase the exports and the details of incentives being given to exporters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) The major items being exported from North-East include tea, cotton, jute, pineapple products, medicinal herbs, broomstick, grass, tejpatta, orchids, limestone, coal, tea processing machinery, handloom textiles, woollen carpets, cane and bamboo works. The Government does not maintain the account of foreign exchange earned through exports of these items State-wise.

(b) Double weightage is provided to the exports from the North-Eastern Region for fulfilling export obligation under the Export

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

import Policy. There is also a provision to recognise one State Corporation in each State as Export House in relaxation of the established criteria.

Operation of French dairy

1655. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have permitted a French dairy to manufacture and market its products in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when, the production would start?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH): (a) to (c) M/s. Groupe Danone, France, hold a foreign collaboration approval granted on 26.8.96 to manufacture and market Danone's range of dairy and milk based products such as yogurt, yogurt drinks, yogurt snacks, dairy desserts and cheeses, except for SSI reserved items. In January 2002, the company has been permitted to increase foreign equity participation from 80% to 100%. The project is proposed to be located at Ambernath, Maharashtra, subject to locational policy. The revised approval is valid upto 25th August, 2003.

Impact to tobacco consumption on health

1656. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 26 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 26th February, 2002 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that nearly eight lakh people become cancer patients every year and the one-third of them have cancer as a result of tobacco consumption;

(b) the impact of increased production of tobacco products on health in India and abroad; and